

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of November 24, 2004. Claims 9, 12, 15, and 24-27 are amended as shown. No new matter has been added. With this amendment, claims 1-40 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged the applicants' claim to foreign priority and requested that the applicants file the certified copy of the priority document. Accordingly, enclosed along with this amendment is a certified copy of the priority European patent application (European Application No. 02425456.7, filed July 10, 2002). Therefore, foreign priority has now been perfected.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 15 because of an informality. Claim 15 has been rewritten to address this informality. The applicants have also noted an informality with regards to claim 9, which has also been rewritten to address the informality.

Claims 12 and 24-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. These claims have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejections. The applicants note that claim 27 as previously presented did in fact have proper antecedent basis since the units of the plurality are previously recited in its parent claim 26. However, to further clarify the recitations of claim 27, claim 27 is amended to recite "said computing units." All of the objected and rejected claims are now in allowable form.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-11, 13-23, and 32-40, for which the applicants thank the Examiner. The Examiner also provided a statement of reasons for allowance. The applicants note that the statement of reasons for allowance recited by the Examiner uses terminology that is consistent with independent claim 1. However, the other independent claims recite elements in a manner that is different than as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, the claims are not to be limited by the exact language used by the Examiner.

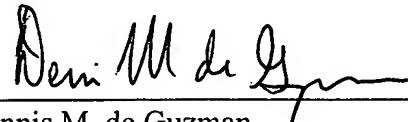
The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Application No. 10/617,147
Reply to Office Action dated November 24, 2004

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Dennis M. de Guzman
Registration No. 41,702

DMD:jl

Enclosures:

Postcard

Certified Copy of Priority Application No. 02425456.7

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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